



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes****February 2, 2007****FREEZE UPDATE**

I have exceptional news to report this week regarding the devastating effects of our recent record freezing temperatures. I am happy to report that **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has officially declared the California Freeze a **Secretarial Natural Disaster**. This comes at a fortuitous time and will allow our growers to focus on assessing losses and compiling accurate claims for submission to local **Farm Service Agencies (FSA)**.

My office continues to work with community service organizations, local government, and the Governor's Administration to provide support; and will continue to do so until the needs of all who have been impacted by the January 2007 Freeze are met. **Senator Abel Maldonado** and I continue to work diligently to expedite the passage of **Senate Bill 116**. The state of California has proven itself dedicated to solutions through the One-Step Assistance Centers, the easing of restrictions surrounding critical services, and by being available to those with concerns. My office continues to monitor all efforts of relief related to the California Freeze.

One-Stop Centers in the 30th Assembly District:

COUNTY	CENTER	ADDRESS	PHONE #
Fresno	Workforce Connection	1680 East Manning Avenue, Reedley	(559) 490-7102
Kern, Inyo, Mono	Career Services Center North – Delano	1816 Cecil Avenue, Delano	(661) 336-6868
	Career Services Center – Southeast Bakersfield	1600 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield	(661) 336-6868
Kings	Kings County One-Stop Job Center	124 North Irwin Street, Hanford	(559) 713-5136
Madera	Madera County Workforce Assistance Center	209 East 7 th Street, Madera	(559) 662-4586
Merced	Worknet Employment Resource Center	1200 W. 16 th St., Merced	(209) 576-6007
Monterey	One-Stop Career Center of Monterey County	730 La Guardia St., Salinas	(559) 905-3772
San Luis Obispo	Creekside Career Center	4111 Broad St., San Luis Obispo	(805) 788-2601
Santa Barbara	Workforce Resource Center – Santa Maria	1410 South Broadway, Suite A, Santa Maria	(805) 614-1543
Tulare	Tulare County Employment Connection, Dinuba	199 North L Street, Dinuba	(559) 662-4586
	Tulare County Employment Connection, Porterville	1063 West Henderson Avenue, Porterville	(559) 662-4586
Ventura	West Oxnard Job and Career Center	635 South Ventura Road, Oxnard	(805) 382-8600

Freeze-Related Unemployment Insurance Claims by County for the 30th Assembly District:

Fresno – 531 claims **Kings** – 23 claims **Kern** – 235 claims **Tulare** – 961 claims

With more than 50 percent of the State’s freeze related unemployment claims coming from the 30th district; I am dedicated to pursuing all possibilities in an effort to remedy this emergency situation. The **Employment Development Department (EDD)** is providing outreach to employees that are expected to be laid off by doing offsite briefings to inform workers of available services and where to apply for such services. In addition the Governor has signed an Executive Order waiving the one week waiting period for individuals filing for unemployment due to the freeze. The waiver will apply to future claims as well as claims that have already been submitted to the department.

Food stamp programs have been initiated and established in **One-Step Assistance Centers**; and the eligibility process for food stamp recipients is being expedited for freeze victims. Concerns over undocumented individuals being intimidated and discouraged from seeking assistance are being investigated by each local **Office of Emergency Services (OES)**. Outreach to local private groups for increased assistance continues.

All food banks in affected areas are being asked to provide details of their expected need in the future so the **Department of Social Services** can work on fulfilling those needs. Federal assistance will be crucial in meeting the demands at local food banks. I am working with EDD to get more food to Tulare County, where food banks are so low on supplies displaced workers in Lindsay have been given vouchers instead of food.

[Click here visit the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Website](#)

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Assembly Committee on Agriculture – Update

I have recently met with members of the **Assembly Committee on Agriculture- Vice-Chair Doug La Malfa, and Assembly members Tom Berryhill, Mervyn Dymally, Jean Fuller, Cathleen Galgiani, Dave Jones, and Tony Mendoza** to discuss California’s agricultural priorities. As Committee Chair I have placed emphasis on the current freeze-relief efforts, food safety, and water. The recent devastating freeze in California will have long lasting impacts on the agricultural community and the state as a whole.

California’s rich and abundant agriculture industry is a \$31.8 billion a year industry and boasts production of over 250 agricultural products; many of which are unique to California. The **California Central Valley** is the largest agricultural producing area in the United States. Agricultural preservation in the state of California, specifically the California Central Valley, is crucial to the state’s economy and future, and I am committed to expanding and securing that economy.

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Caucus Updates

I am excited to report that the recent **Latino Caucus** planning meeting addressed and prioritized the needs of California Latinos. Under the leadership of Assembly member Joe Coto of the 23rd Assembly District, the caucus specifically addressed issues of concern for Latino populations; such as healthcare access, increased housing, and education improvements.

I have recently been asked to co-chair the **California Legislature Outdoor Sporting Caucus** with **Senator Hollingsworth**. The California Legislature Outdoor Sporting Caucus was established to protect and promote California's wildlife, their habitats, and the ability of the public to participate in wildlife-related recreational activities. The caucus' goal is to protect and enhance California's wildlife habitats and to further the understanding and acceptance of outdoor activities throughout the state. I have enthusiastically accepted the invitation and look forward to providing support to the interests of California's many outdoor enthusiasts.

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California Redistricting Plan

Assembly Democrats announced the principles of their redistricting proposal yesterday that will develop an independent commission which will reshape the way the state draws its legislative districts. It should be obvious to everyone how self serving it is for legislators to draw their own political boundaries. These principles would eliminate this practice and bring a level of unprecedented independence to our state’s approach to redistricting.

Assemblymember Curren D. Price Jr. (D-Inglewood), Chair of the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee has submitted language to legislative counsel which outlines the following points:

- ✓ Creating a bipartisan commission of 11 members, including commissioners who are Democrats, Republicans and not registered with either of those parties.
- ✓ The commission will represent a broad cross-section of Californians committed to adopting fair redistricting plans.
- ✓ Representative of California's diversity, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, geographic and gender diversity.
- ✓ Commissioners registered with the same political party for 3 years before their appointments.
- ✓ Commissioners may not have held or run for office for the three preceding years or have been employed as lobbyists or by a campaign committee, political party or the Legislature during that time.
- ✓ Commissioners may not have a financial or immediate family relationship with the Governor, any member of the Legislature, Congress or the Board of Equalization.
- ✓ Commissioners would have to pledge not to run for office for three years after their terms on the commission end.
- ✓ Redistricting limited to once a decade unless a court orders otherwise.
- ✓ Required to comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and the California Public Records Act.
- ✓ The commission will be provided with sufficient resources, including staff and legal counsel, to be hired by the commission itself to ensure its independence.
- ✓ Fair, legal plans required to include: Compliance with the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act, including per-district populations that meet constitutional equality standards.
- ✓ Districts will also be geographically contiguous, respect communities of interest, city, county and geographic boundaries to the extent practicable and be compact to the extent practicable. Incumbents' and candidates' residence locations may not be considered except as needed to comply with these standards.
- ✓ Public hearing will be required at all stages of the process – before maps are drawn, once tentative maps are drawn by the commission, and again on the proposed final commission maps.

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Important Notes for the Valley

This week I received a visit from **Kern Community College** representatives to discuss legislative priorities for this next year. President **William M. Andrews**, Board of Trustees member **Pauline Larwood**, Distance Learning Coordinator **Kathleen Loomis-Tubbesing**, Department Chair of Performing Arts **Dr. John Gerhold**, and **Alan Crane** from the Student

Government Association, had incredible suggestions and ideas on how to maximize the educational experience for students at **Kern Community College**. Please visit <http://www.kccd.edu/> for more information.

I was able to meet with the **advocacy team**, comprised of students, from **College of Sequoias** during their annual trip to the State Capitol. I was able to discuss and gain insight into the current issues that college students are facing in the Valley. After the meeting I had the pleasure of taking the students on a personally guided tour of the Capitol; including a trip to the floor of the California Assembly Chambers. Please <http://www.cos.edu/> for more information.

A meeting with **Merced County Association of Governments** was held this week in Sacramento, which allowed me to discuss current water issues in Merced County. As a member of the **Assembly Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife**, I am highly concerned with the challenges the Central Valley faces in regards to water. As we all know ‘Food Grows Where Water Flows,’ and I am committed to ensuring positive outcomes through viable solutions for Central Valley water issues. Please visit <http://www.mcag.cog.ca.us/> for more information.

I had the pleasure of meeting with **Jim Tilton, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation** to discuss the **prison reforms** that are being considered by the Governor’s Office. I also took the opportunity to reiterate my concerns over the prison reform initiatives in the Central Valley. I will continue to monitor all initiatives related to prison reform and keep you updated. Please visit <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/> for more information.

The **California Restaurant Association (CRA)** hosted a **Farm to Table Legislative reception** which I attended. As with any CRA event the food was phenomenal and reminded me of all the amazing small business owners that operate throughout California. To all the individuals who I had the opportunity to meet; I had a fantastic time and would like to thank all of you for you for being such gracious hosts. Please visit <http://www.calrest.org/> for more information.

And Lastly, It is my honor to announce that I recently was invited to participate in the **Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Institute Conference**. I was presented with an amazing opportunity to speak to Latina women who aspire to develop their professional leadership abilities through political action. I was moved to share my experiences in office as well as the challenges faced by California Latina leaders. **HOPE** is a non profit, non partisan organization which works with established Latino leaders to help Latinas foster their professional growth, leadership development, and political clout. For more information please visit HOPE’s website www.latinas.org .

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When Visiting Sacramento

As always, thank you to everyone who stops by my office. As a reminder, next time you find yourself in Sacramento stop by my new office and say hello. The office is now located on the 5th floor in room 5155. If I’m unavailable please leave your business card with my staff and I will do my best to get in contact with you.

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e mail [Brandon Sanders](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov) so they can be included in our distribution list.

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Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

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Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Anna Goddard** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at: Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

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